Complaint Against ITDC Officials

*229. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC management received a complaint dated 3rd July, 1998 from the All India ITDC Employees' Union regarding misuse of official position by the officials of Ashok Travels and Tours, ITDC, for personal gains;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government on the above-mentioned complaint;

(c) whether any action has since been taken against the delinquent officials of ATT based on the above-mentioned complaint as on date; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The complaint was investigated by Vigilance Division of the Corporation and disciplinary/administrative action taken by the ITDC.

Corruption in Judicial System

*230. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Corruption has weakened justice delivery system" as reported in the Times of India dated the 12th November, 1999;

(b) if so, whether due to rampant corruption and incompetence among the judiciary and police there is delay in giving justice;

(c) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plans to stem the rot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The delay in disposal of cases is due to various complex factors which also include rise in population, increased institution of

cases, inadequate judge strength, granting of adjournments, radical change in the pattern of litigation, long arguments, etc. Cases of corruption do occasionally surface.

Various measures have been taken to expedite disposal of cases. These include, inter alia, amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of judges/Judicial officers, appointment of special Judicial/ Metropolitan Magistrates to dispose of petty criminal cases and adoption of other alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as. conciliation, mediation, arbitration and setting up of Lok Adalats, Special Courts and Tribunals.

The Government also proposes to set up a National Judicial Commission which will, inter alia, draw up a code of ethics for the judiciary.

Off Loading of Holdings by Financial Institutions

*231. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has demanded that the Financial Institutions be given free hand to off load their holding in poorly managed companies to the highest bidder without any Government interference;

(b) if so, the views of other industrial Federations in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed by Government to uplift companies in distress.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASABHED VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Confedertion of Indian Industry (CII) in a press release issued on 5th November, 1999 observed that repeated instances of mismanagement coupled with strategic debt defaults should be firmly responded to by lenders and shareholders alike. In such instances, the Financial Institutions (FIs) cannot be denied their right to protect their interests by selling their equity stakes at the highest bid to new management provided this is done is a fair and transparent manner. Other apex associations such as ASSOCHAM and FICCI hold the view that FIs, when considering divestment of their stake